

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

115-0-2-0

Hanover

HNS.224

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 274 King Street

Historic Name: Thomas Stetson House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1839

Source: White's History, Plan No. 5, Page 85

Style/Form: Federal/Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite Block

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garden shed to southeast of house, stockade fence surrounding rear yard, and small three sided garbage can shed in southwest corner of the site

Major Alterations (*with dates*): None

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .96 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Federal style house has an asphalt shingled gable roof with a short, corbeled brick chimney at each end of the roof ridge. The house sits far back from the road at the end of a gravel driveway lined with mature trees. Although the assessor's map shows a long cross gable addition to the east façade of the house, this addition is not visible from the public way aside from a third brick chimney that peaks up over the ridge of the original Cape's gable roof. The house is wood clapboard sided with wood trim and twelve-over-twelve double hung replacement wood windows. The roof of the house overhangs the gable facades only slightly with wood trimmed eaves and soffits projecting out over the cornice board and corner boards below. The roof ends flush with the gable-end facades, where a narrow band of wood trim outlines the pediment. The wood frames of the windows extend up into the cornice on the west façade and have narrow, projecting sills.

The house faces west towards the street and has a symmetrical front facade with two windows to either side of the center entrance. The door frame has a wide, flat header that extends up into the cornice and around the narrow, four-pane sidelights installed above a tall wood panel on either side of the door. The door itself appears to be a solid wood door and opens onto a short granite landing leading into the yard. The north and south gable-ends of the house are identical in design. Each has two double hung windows in the gable-end surrounding the center chimney, with a window at either end of the first floor as well.

A small, lean-to roofed wood shingled shed is located to the southeast of the house at the end of the gravel driveway, and a second, similarly detailed three-sided lean-to is located to the right of the driveway at the street. A wood stockade fence is visible behind the house and appears to surround the eastern end of the property. An open grass lawn stretches from the west of the house to the street with mature trees at its center and southern edge. Planting beds are located around the west and south facades of the house, and dense vegetation runs along the north and south property lines.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, this house was built by Thomas S. Stetson (1803-1877) in 1839, who occupied the house until his death on September 2, 1877. Thomas was born on October 29, 1803 to Thomas and Betsey (Studley) Stetson. Thomas likely bought the land around the time of his marriage to Asenath C. Bailey on December 10, 1827. This is confirmed by a "right of flowage" between Thomas Hobart and Thomas Stetson dating back to 1826—suggesting that Stetson owned the property for several years before constructing the home.¹ After the death of Asenath in 1849, Thomas Stetson's married again, this time to Lucinda Fletcher on August 15, 1850 at the age of 47.

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 156, Page 224.

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Thomas' sons, Alden, Hiram and Charles Stetson inherited the property after his death in 1877. The home passed between the three sons for several years. Alden Stetson (1828-1884) worked as a farmer; Hiram (1831-1905) as a millwright; and youngest son, Charles Thomas Stetson (1841-1896) as a machinist. The home finally left the Stetson family in 1889 when Charles and his wife, Elizabeth S Stetson (nee Russell) (1844-1937) sold the home to a physician, George E Huntley and his wife, Sarah. Charles T. Stetson died several years later on February 8, 1896 at the age of 54.

In 1896, Sarah E. and George E. Huntley sold the home to Charles W. and Helen F Hunt (nee Gowell).² The 1903 Richards Atlas shows "O.W. Hunt" as the owner of the home. "C" could easily have been written incorrectly as "O." This map shows three outbuilding on the site, including two possible barns, as well as a small dirt road or path to the house from King Street and an addition to the rear façade of the building. Charles (1856-1907), a farmer on the 1900 Census, died on September 11, 1907. Two years later, his widow Helen sold the home to Averill A Crooker, a shoemaker according to the federal census.³

In 1915, the home passed from Averill A. Crooker to Gerard DeBoey (or Girard DeBoey) of South Boston. Later that same year, to Frank A H Norcross (1864-1946), a real estate agent at the time of the 1910 U.S.Census, and his wife, Julia (Folsom).⁴ In 1919, Frank and Julia passed ownership of the home to his son, Frank A H Norcross Jr (1896-1976), a farmer.⁵ The house passed back and forth between the father and son until 1946 when Frank Sr. died. Frank Jr. inherited the property at this time along with his mother, Julia, and sisters, Florence and Alice (now Patterson).⁶ Later that same year, Frank Jr. sold the property to William and Catherine Berigan.⁷

Four years later in 1950, William H and Catherine A. Berigan sold the home to Walter H Kingsley who sold it to Henry Soszynski (also spelled Susinski) in 1956.⁸ In 1960, Henry Soszynski (1923-1978) was employed as an engineer at Jackson & Moreland in Boston. After her husband's death, Janet B. Soszynski sold the home in 1984 to Jeffrey E. Diluglio and Rene J. Sontag.⁹ Over the next two years, the house changed hands several times. First, Jeffrey E. Diluglio and Rene J Sontag sold the home to Robert Arthur French Sr. in 1985 who placed the home in a trust with his sons. A year later, he sold the home to Charles and Margaret Scheller.¹⁰ Charles and Margaret Scheller sold the home to Dawn and Nicholas DeCosta in 2011.¹¹ The current owner, Amy Roebuck, purchased the home from them in 2017.¹²

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Census, 1855 and 1865. Located in Local History Room, Hanson Public Library and www.ancestry.com

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 1214, Page 284

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 1214, Page 284

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 1222 Pages 502-503

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 1403 Page 292

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Probate Docket #59929

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 1928 Page 44

⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 2113 Page 61; Book 2500 Page 185

⁹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 5625, Page 22

¹⁰ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 6688, Page 275

¹¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 39529 Page 261

¹² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 48769, Page 88-90

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